



Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

GUILTY VERDICT IN OMAHA DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that after a 3 ½ week trial in front of United States District Senior Judge Lyle E. Strom, the jury returned verdicts of guilty against Shannon Williams, age 46, Deshawn Hernandez, age 31, and Sara Jarrett, age 32, of Omaha, Nebraska, on conspiracy to distribute marijuana and conspiracy to money launder. Since 2006 the organization led by Mr. Williams was responsible for distributing well in excess of 15,000 pounds of marijuana. Mr. Williams and others recruited others to either fly or drive to the Tucson, Arizona, area where the marijuana would be purchased. Those same drivers, or additional drivers, would drive the marijuana from Arizona to the Omaha area. Separate drivers would drive the money for the marijuana from Omaha to Arizona. The money made from selling marijuana was deposited in bank accounts and then withdrawn to purchase real property. At least eight houses were bought with the money attributed to the drug trafficking. Over \$500,000 in United States currency was seized and forfeited as part of this investigation.

U.S. Attorney Gilg stated, "This was an exceptional case involving outstanding prosecutor and law enforcement collaboration. We are pleased to remove a drug king pin and his associates from our community."

The trial was the culmination of a two year investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bellevue Police Department, Omaha Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Local law enforcement also relied on the cooperation of law enforcement in Peoria, Arizona, and Tucson, Arizona. Sentencing for all three defendants has been set for July 28, 2011.